Pakistan's rejection to hand over criminals

844. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan President bluntly rejected India's demand for handing over criminals and terrorists, such as JeM Chief Masood Azhar, adding that linking of Kashmir issue with the attack on Parliament caused problems;

(b) if so, whether Government see any distinction between Pak-backed terrorists' activities in Kashmir and terrorism perpetrated by them at Parliament and elsewhere; and

(c) Government's reaction to Pak President's rejection of the said demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Referring to the list of 20 fugitives from law handed over by India, the President of Pakistan, in his address to the Pakistan nation on January 12, stated that there was no question of the Pakistan authorities handing over any Pakistan national to India. On the presence in Pakistan, of non-Pakistan nationals who figure on the list of 20 fugitives from law, the President sought to obfuscate the issue by stating that Pakistan had not given asylum to any such person.

(b) The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary steps to defeat terrorism, irrespective of where it is perpetrated in the country.

(c) The Pakistan President's approach to India's request on the list of 20 fugitives from law, is only a further illustration of the fact that even though Pakistan may publicly profess support to the international coalition against terrorism it seeks to continue its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. This was also clearly discernible in a public address by the President, on February 5, where he reiterated Pakistan's time worm and untenable formulations on terrorism and sought to justify continued terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir.

Government will continue to take all necessary steps to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country, and to resist cross-border terrorism until it is decisively crushed.